

APPENDIX C

STATE OBJECTIVES FOR THE MONTANA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

HUD regulations (24 CFR Part 91) require the State to identify its community development objectives which must be developed in accordance with the federal statutory objectives of the CDBG Program. The State's objectives for Montana's CDBG Program follow.

NOTE: In response to Ranking Criterion 1, CDBG grant applicants are asked to describe one state objective for the CDBG program that is appropriate and pertinent to the proposed project.

General

1. To enhance the quality of life in Montana's incorporated and unincorporated communities by eliminating blight and deterioration, encouraging private investment, rehabilitating or constructing affordable housing, providing adequate infrastructure and community facilities to protect the public health and safety and to provide vital services, and creating or retaining employment opportunities.
2. Provide funding to communities whose needs are greater than those of other communities and whose projects most effectively address local needs and the objectives of the Montana CDBG Program.
3. Encourage meaningful citizen participation in the selection, design and implementation of local community development projects.
4. Ensure that CDBG projects result in sound investment in Montana's communities and are administered efficiently, effectively and consistently with appropriate State and federal policies.
5. Encourage the recognition of potential environmental constraints on community development activities in order to avoid or mitigate potentially adverse impacts upon the human and natural environment.
6. To provide incentives for the adoption and implementation of local growth policies by encouraging the development of long-term strategies for community development activities which are coordinated and integrated with local and area-wide planning programs, including comprehensive or land use planning, public facilities planning and financing, as well as housing and economic development planning and activities.
7. To encourage preservation of agricultural land and open space by supporting development within and adjacent to existing communities.
8. Encourage improved coordination with and participation of other available public or private resources for community development projects in order to increase the impact of limited CDBG funds.
9. To encourage simplification of, and greater consistency for, application and project administration requirements established by state and federal funding programs.

Economic Development

10. Encourage viable economic development projects that promote investment of private capital, expansion of local tax bases, and creation of permanent, year round jobs principally for low and moderate-income Montanans.
11. Encourage projects that will involve basic economic activities, including manufacturing, import substitution activities; or the distribution of Montana-made goods.
12. Encourage projects that involve the processing, refining, and marketing of Montana's natural resources.

Housing

13. Provide decent, safe, sanitary, and energy efficient housing by conserving and improving the condition of appropriate existing housing stock.
14. Support the revitalization of deteriorated or declining residential neighborhoods or unincorporated communities through comprehensive improvement efforts that address blight, as well as housing and public facility needs, while avoiding displacement of current residents.
15. Encourage the provision of affordable and appropriate housing assistance to low and moderate income families, and in particular, to those with special needs such as those with lower incomes, female heads of family, or minority, elderly or disabled members.
16. Increase fair housing opportunity by encouraging efforts by local governments and the private sector to prevent or eliminate discriminatory or restrictive housing practices.
17. Encourage private sector investment in the provision of housing for low and moderate income families and increase the impact of local housing programs through cooperative arrangements with private lenders and the use of financial leveraging techniques.
18. Provide affordable, energy-efficient housing for low and moderate-income families located within reasonable proximity of employment, education, and social services.

Public Facilities

19. Assist communities in providing appropriate and long-term solutions to serious deficiencies in basic infrastructure and community facilities which are detrimental to the public health and safety and detract from further community development, or which are necessary to meet other essential community needs.
20. Encourage community participation in the financing of public facility projects in proportion to local financial resources and capacity to share in project costs while assuring that the facilities and services will be affordable for low and moderate-income households.
21. Assist communities in planning for long-term public facility needs, including the preparation of capital improvement plans and their integration with capital budgeting for communities as part of their annual budget process.

Technical Assistance

22. To provide technical assistance to local governments in applying for and administering CDBG funds to address community revitalization, housing and/or public facility needs, including capacity building for community planning and growth management.